



## **Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 4**

**Meeting Date:** 10-16-06

**Meeting Location:** Whitley County Department of Child Services

### **Council Members Present:**

Steve Scott, Adams County Director  
Dave Judkins, Regional Manager, Region 4  
Jan Vogelman, Huntington County Foster Parent  
Judge Heuer, Whitley County Judge  
Kim Wilson, Wells County Supervisor  
Sheila Romano, Wells County Family Case Manager  
Mary Southern, Dekalb County Director  
Judge Kramer, Noble County Judge  
Jan Lung, Stueben/Lagrange County Director

### **Council Members Absent:**

Rex McFarren, Allen County CASA

### **Others in Attendance:**

Michelle Savieo, Allen County Director  
Steve Weaver, Whitley County Director  
Wernle Children's Home  
Gateway woods  
Youth Service Bureau - Huntington

<b>Meeting Minutes</b>
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**Meeting Called to Order at:** 4:09 pm

1. Minutes from September 11, 2006 minutes approved.
2. Dave Judkins updates RSC on Practice reform. A handout is passed around. Dave explains that this outlines our principles and core practice. This will begin in March 2007 already in effect in regions 9 and 18 in the state. This system is based on a system in Utah. It is based on teaming with families and letting them help decide their outcomes in cases, allowing them to take a more active role in what is best for them. These decisions come from a lot of family team decision making meetings. By July 07 the goal is to have all those trained to work with families in this manner. Dave indicates that from a Family Case Manager point of view, they like it as this takes some of the pressure off of

them. They leave the Case Conference (family team decision making meeting) knowing that some of the others are responsible for seeing things through to completion. In order for this to work need to have caseloads that are manageable. 4 investigations (per month) and 10 ongoing cases is the standard for mixed caseloads and 12 each for specialized intake or 17 children for specialized ongoing FCM's. We have a regional manager from region 18 to talk to directors in this region to decide what can be done prior to prepare. In an attempt to get caseloads to a manageable level, we are hiring pretty heavily in the area. In the next round of hiring we will have 13 FCMs going to Allen, 1 to Dekalb, 2 to Huntington County, 1 in Kosciusko, 2 in LaGrange, 2 in Noble, 1 in Stueben, and 1 in Grant. The new hires will be able to carry caseload in January. Allen will maybe get 6-7 supervisors to supervise their growing number of workers. Field Mentor Program started last cohort. Each county picked the best FCMs to mentor new incoming Family Case Managers – this had some bumps during the first round, but they are working them out. There is a bonus of \$500 to each of the Mentors.

3. Child Welfare Service Contracts were addressed. Dave indicated that this will probably be the last year that we do this as we have. There are a significant amount of these. We will be asking the directors to come and present these over the next 3 months. We will also be tracking minor expenditures out of this fund to see if we need to have a contract in the region for this service. The contracts come through the local office and it is the director's responsibility to ensure they are appropriate. Several have been brought tonight to go over and approve or deny.

Michelle Savieo brought some from Allen County. Michelle indicates that she has brought 3 for preservation services. Handouts were provided for each.

A. Is a MOA with East Wayne Street for parenting Education for families. These are group parenting classes. The allocation is for \$50,000 for the year 2007

RSC Approved for East Wayne Street MOA

B. Catholic Charities for Diagnostic and Assessment Services. They do MMPI's for LFC homes and Kinship care homes. This provides for them to continue to do these assessments.

Approved by RSC

C. The last one from Allen County is Crossroads Children home for home based case management. This is a new program that they

have not done before but would like to do, particularly for their kids coming out of care and transitioning home.

Approved by RSC

Jan Lung, Steuben and Lagrange County Director, also presents for the following programs for those two counties. Handouts were provided.

A. Lagrange Liaison Officer. There is a strong history of success for the program in keeping delinquents out of high-cost placements.

Approved by RSC

B. Suspension School in conjunction with LaGrange Court. This program has been based on Lakeland schools and serves all 3 school corporations. It has been very effective with delinquency and early intervention in DCS cases.

Approved by RSC.

C. Steuben County Youth Improvements Program (after school) and Steuben County Youth Improvement Program (Daytime). These were both developed to address delinquency.

RSC Approved for both programs

3. Dave advises that he has requests from 2 agencies for amendments to contracts already approved.

A. Catholic Charities wishes to add home based case work at a Unit rate of \$34.00/ hour for Face to Face contact, Travel Time, Court Testimony, Case Conferences, Collateral Contacts, and No Show Occurrences. This Change is necessary to continue providing case management services to children being matched for adoptive placement.

RSC approved this amendment.

B. Caring About People wishes to amend the following:

1. Change the unit rate for Substance Abuse Services to \$55.00 for individual, primarily home based substance abuse services

2. Add the Unit Rate for Group Counseling at \$34.00 per person per group hour for in office group substance abuse services
3. Change the unit rate for drug screening to \$25.00 for on site urine based 11 panel screens and sending all positive tests for laboratory confirmation and for \$30.00 on site saliva based 11 panel screens all of which will be sent for laboratory confirmation.

These changes are necessary to modify the original proposal to enable CAP to provide Substance Abuse services originally contracted with Lutheran Social Services. Lutheran Social Services has asked to withdraw from providing these services.

RSC approved this amendment.

4. Dave indicated that CAPTA started officially today. This is a process whereby perpetrators have the right to appeal substantiated decisions of child abuse or neglect. Letters must go out informing them of this right. It is reviewed locally, if they do not agree with the local decision they can request a hearing with an Administrative Law Judge. There are 2 in the state and they are located in Indianapolis and South Bend for hearings. Our hearings will be heard in South Bend.
5. Meetings for November and December were canceled due to holiday season.

**Next Meeting Date, Location and Time:** January 8, 2007, Allen County Department of Child Services, 4:00 pm

**Meeting Adjourned at:** 5:27 pm